



Kidbrooke Park Road
London SE3 9PX

t: 020 8856 0115
f: 020 8331 3004
www.thomastallischool.com

Head: Carolyn Roberts
e: headteacher@thomastallis.org.uk

6 September 2018

Dear Parent and Carers

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Director of Mathematics at Thomas Tallis School and to inform you of some important changes to the mathematics curriculum. I will explain these changes in more detail, and answer any questions you may have, at **a Parent Forum to be held on Thursday 13 September from 6pm to 7pm**. I do hope that you will be able to attend.

First, there is significant change to the mathematics curriculum at Thomas Tallis. In years 7, 8 and 9, students will be working on number and algebra work. By the end of year 9, this will cover questions equivalent in difficulty to grade 9 at GCSE. In these years, students need to develop mathematical literacy so they can read and write mathematics fluently and accurately. This makes problem-solving much easier. This approach will not only facilitate success at GCSE, but will ensure we develop students who are more able to secure excellent grades at A-level and beyond.

Second, there is major change in the way we group students. In years 7 to 9, there will be four mixed attainment classes and two nurture groups on each side of the year. All students within the standard range (measured by their average CAT* score) will be in mixed attainment groups. Students who need significant support to develop numeracy will be in nurture groups. Staff have worked hard to prepare for this.

We are changing for three reasons. First, I believe in equality of opportunity for all students. Second, students' expectations of themselves, and teachers' expectations of them influence their engagement and success. I successfully led this change from setting to mixed attainment teaching in my previous school, and it had a significantly positive impact on the quality of teaching and the attainment of the students – at all ability levels. Third, maths achievement at GCSE at Tallis has been stubbornly low for some time: we need to change.

To support the change to mixed ability teaching, and to ensure that students benefit from the rich curriculum, we will change aspects of the classroom environment. Most notably, we will significantly increase the amount of silent, independent work. Your support regarding this will be very much appreciated.

inquisitive • collaborative • persistent • disciplined • imaginative

We are changing the way we teach so that our students may become confident, happy and expert mathematicians. If you would like to find out more, or if you have any further questions, I look forward to meeting you at the parent forum.

Yours sincerely

Susan Evans



Susan Evans
Director of Maths

Jon Curtis Brignell
Acting Deputy Head Curriculum

*The Cognitive Ability Test is a national test we administer in early year 7.